

gregarious; they do not soar, and their flight is heavy and clumsy. On the ground they run with extreme quickness, putting out one leg before the other, and stretching forward their bodies, very much like pheasants. The sealers, who have sometimes, when pressed by hunger, eaten them, say that the flesh when cooked is quite white, like that of a fowl, and very good to eat—a fact which I, as well as some others of a party from the Beagle, who, owing to a gale of wind, were left on shore in northern Patagonia, until we were very hungry, can answer for, is far from being the case with the flesh of the Carrancha, or *Polyborus Brasiliensis*. It is a strange anomaly that any of the *Falconidae* should possess such perfect powers of running as is the case with this bird, and likewise with the *Phalcobæus montanus* of D'Orbigny. It perhaps, indicates an obscure relationship with the Gallinaceous order—a relation which M. D'Orbigny suggests is still more plainly shown in the Secretary Bird, which he believes represents in Southern Africa, the *Polyborinae* of America.

The *M. leucurus* is a noisy bird, and utters several harsh cries; of which, one is so like that of the English rook, that the sealers always call it by this name. It is a curious circumstance, as shewing how, in allied species, small details of habit accompany similar structure, that these hawks throw their heads upwards and backwards, in the same strange manner, as the Carranchas (the Tharu of Molina) have been described to do. The *M. leucurus*, builds on the rocky cliffs of the sea-coast, but (as I was informed) only on the small outlying islets, and never on the two main islands: this is an odd precaution for so fearless a bird.

#### 4. MILVAGO ALBOGULARIS.

##### PLATE I.

*Polyborus*, (*Phalcobæus*) *albogularis*, Gould, Proceedings of Zoolog. Soc. Part V. (Jan. 1837.) p. 9.

*M. Fem. fuscescens-niger, marginibus plumarum inter scapulas fulvis; primariis secundariisque albo ad apicem notatis; guld, pectore, corporeque subtus albis; lateribus fusco sparsis; rostro livido, lineis nigris ornato; cera tarsisque flavis.*

Long. tot. 20 unc.  $\frac{1}{2}$ ; rostri, 1  $\frac{1}{2}$ ; alæ, 15  $\frac{3}{4}$ ; caudæ, 9; tarsi, 3.

*Description of female specimen, believed to be applicable to both sexes.*

COLOUR.—Head, back, upper wing coverts pitch black, passing into liver brown; feathers on back of neck and shoulders terminating in a yellowish-brown tip, of which tint the external portion of the primaries, and nearly the whole of the tertiaries partake. Tail liver brown, with a terminal white band nearly one inch broad; base of the tectrices white, irregularly marked with brown: upper tail coverts white. All the feathers of the wing

tipped with white, their bases irregularly barred with transverse marks of brown and white. *Under surface*.—Chin, throat, breast, belly, thighs, under tail-coverts, under lining of wings, and edge of shoulders perfectly white. On the flanks, however, there are some brown feathers irregularly interspersed; and on the lower part of the breast, most of the feathers show a most obscure margin of pale brown. Bill horn-colour. Cere and tarsi yellow.

FORM.—Cere and nostril as in the *M. leucurus*, but the bill not quite so strong. Feathers on the sides and back of head narrow and rather stiff; those on the shoulders obtusely pointed,—which character of plumage is very general in this sub-family. Wing: fourth primary very little longer than the third or the fifth, which are equal to each other. First primary three inches shorter than the fourth or longest, and more nearly equal to the sixth than to the seventh. Extremity of wing reaching to within about an inch and a half of the tail. Tarsi reticulated, with four large scales at the base: upper part covered with plumose feathers for about three quarters of an inch below the knee; but these feathers hang down and cover nearly half of the leg. Middle toe with fifteen scales, outer ones with about nine. Claws of nearly the same degree of strength, curvature and breadth as in *Polyborus Brasiliensis*, or in *M. leucurus*, but sharper than those of the latter.

	Inch.		Inch.
Total length . . . . .	20 $\frac{1}{2}$	Hind claw measured in straight line from tip to root . . . . .	$\frac{11}{16}$
Tail . . . . .	9	Claw of middle toe, a twentieth less than that of the hind one.	
Wings when folded . . . . .	15 $\frac{3}{4}$		
From tip of beak to anterior edge of eye . . . . .	$\frac{11}{16}$		
Tarsus from soles of feet to knee joint . . . . .	3 $\frac{1}{2}$		

Habitat, Santa Cruz, 50° S. Patagonia. (*April*.)

Mr. Gould, at the time of describing this species, entertained some doubts whether it might not eventually prove to be the *Phalcobæus montanus* of D'Orbigny, in a state of change. I have carefully compared it with the description of the *P. montanus*, and certainly, with the exception of the one great difference of *M. albogularis* having a white breast, whilst that part in the *P. montanus* is black, the points of resemblance are numerous and exceedingly close. The *M. albogularis*, appears to be rather larger, and the proportional length of the wing feathers are slightly different; the cere and tarsi are not of so bright a colour; the middle toe has fifteen scales on it instead of having sixteen or seventeen. The black shades of the upper surface are pitchy, instead of having an obscure metallic gloss, and the feathers of the shoulders are terminated with brown, so as to form a collar, which is not represented in the figure of